

Applicant : Lester E. Cornelius and Toshinori Torii
Serial No. : 09/910,691
Filed : July 20, 2001
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REMARKS

Claims 1-64 were pending in the subject application. Claims 47-64 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as drawn to nonelected subject matter. By this Amendment, applicants have canceled claims 4, 6 and 47-64 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 1, 5, and 7-43, and added new dependent claims 65-84. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 7-46 and 65-84 will be pending and under examination.

Applicants maintain that the amendments to claims 1, 5, and 7-43, and the addition of new claims 65-84 do not raise an issue of new matter. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 5, and 7-43 can be found in the previous version of the claims. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include features of claims 4 and 6. Claim 7 has been amended to include features of claim 1. Claim 21 has been amended to include features of claims 1, 22, and 32. Claim 27 has been amended to include features of claims 1, 21, 28, 29, and 30. Claims 34, 36 and 39 have each been amended to include features of claims 1 and 21. Support for new claims 65-76 can be found in claims 2 and 3. Support for new claims 77-80 can be found *inter alia* in the specification on at least page 21, line 2. Support for new claims 81-84 can be found *inter alia* in the specification on at least page 19, lines 16-17. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 6 recite the limitation "the base material" for which there is insufficient antecedent basis.

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Applicants have hereinabove amended the claims to cancel claim 6 and to remove the limitation “the base material” from claim 5. Accordingly, applicants respectively request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

Objection to Claim 36

Claim 36 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claim 36 has hereinabove been rewritten in independent form, thereby rendering this objection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 21, 27, and 36 are rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 5,806,834 (Yoshida). Claims 1, 4 and 5 are also rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,468,609 (Mariën et al.).

Claim 1 has been amended hereinabove to include the features of claims 4 and 6. Applicants note that the Examiner previously indicated that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 3, and 5 dependent directly from claim 1. Claim 4 has been canceled.

Claim 21 has been amended to be an independent claim and to include features of claims 22 and 32, which the Examiner previously indicated contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 27 has been amended to be an independent claim and to include features of claims 28, 29, and 30, which the Examiner previously indicated contain allowable subject matter.

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Claim 36, which was rejected for not further limiting claim 21, has been rewritten as an independent claim.

Based on the amendments and remarks made hereinabove, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 44-46 are allowed and that claims 7-20, 22-26, 28-35 and 37-43 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner further indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. The claims have been amended hereinabove to incorporate subject matter that the Examiner indicated is allowable.

Information Disclosure Statement

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on July 23, 2003, due to the listing under "Foreign Patent Documents" on Form PTO/SB/08A of English-language versions of five Japanese Patent Documents. The Examiner indicated that he has not yet considered these English-language documents previously submitted as part of the IDS.

Applicants attach hereto the published (Japanese-language) version of the English-language version of the documents previously submitted. In addition, applicants submit a revised version of the previously submitted Form PTO/SB/08A on which column

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"T" has been checked further to the instructions on the Form to indicate that English language translations of the Japanese Patent Documents have been provided. Applicants request that the Examiner consider the documents previously submitted, initial the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08A to indicate that the documents have been considered, and return the initialized Form to applicants.

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CONCLUSION

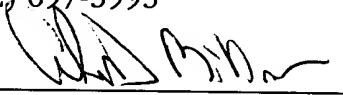
In view of the amendments and remarks made hereinabove, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections set forth in the July 3, 2003 Office Action and earnestly solicit allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants have previously paid fees for filing 64 claims and 7 independent claims. Enclosed herewith is a check for \$84.00 for the fee for filing 1 independent claim in addition to the 7 previously paid for. No additional fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any other fee is required to preserve the pendency of the subject application, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 30, 2003
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